Reply Serial No.

Examination of Estimates of Expenditure 2003-04 CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION

HPLB(H)-002

Question Serial

0309

<u>Head</u> : 62	Subhead 000 - Clearance and Squatter Control
Programme :	6201 - Squatter and Temporary Housing Clearance and Squatter Control
Controlling Officer :	Permanent Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands (Housing)
Director of Bureau :	Secretary for Housing, Planning and Lands
Question :	Why there is only a decrease of \$6.80M in the departmental operational expenses against the revised estimate for 2002-03 as most of the work on clearance and squatter control of the Housing Department has been completed or transferred to the Lands Department? Please set out the details of the eight posts to be deleted?
Asked by :	HON. CHAN Yuen-han
<u>Reply</u> :	The squatter control functions covering the urban and islands districts have been transferred to the Lands Department since 1 April 2002. The corresponding transfer of resources from Head 62 to Head 91 (Lands Department) had been reflected in the 2002-03 budget provision.
	The departmental operational expenses provided under Head 62 in the 2003-04 budget estimate are in line with last year's provision to allow the Housing Department to continue with its squatter control activities in the New Territories and rehousing squatter clearees and occupants of unauthorised rooftop structures upon Buildings Department's enforcement action.
	The decrease of \$6.8M in the budget estimate is to be achieved by various cost-saving initiatives, including deletion of eight Housing Officer posts, one each from our eight squatter control districts. Deletion of these posts will achieve a saving of about \$3.1M.

Signature	
Name in block letters	C. M. LEUNG
Post Title	Permanent Secretary for Housing Planning and Lands (Housing)
Date	20 March 2003